

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8-12, and 14 are pending in the application and claims 1, 8-12, and 14 have been amended hereby. Claims 3-7, 13, and 15-21 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-21 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hyung-Seob in view of Rowan.

Features of the utility placket according to the present invention are a rectangular button strip (12 in Fig. 2) having a loop (13 in Fig. 2) fixed to a vertical edge of the rectangular button strip (as shown in Figs. 2 and 3). See page 6, lines 17-26 of the present application, for example. The loop is adapted to hold an item and is positioned so that the loop is hidden when not in use. See Fig. 3 of the present application, for example.

Independent claims 1, 12, and 14 have been amended to recite these features of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Hyung-Seob and Rowan fails to show or suggest a loop fixed to a vertical edge of a rectangular button strip and positioned to be hidden when not in use. The loop (14 in Fig. 3B) taught by Hyung-Seob is clearly fixed to a horizontal edge of the seam formed by the button strip and the button-hole strip and not fixed to a vertical edge of the button strip such as in the presently claimed invention.

Further, because there are no features in Rowan, having a loop fixed to the button-hole strip and not to the button strip,

that somehow could be combined with Hyung-Seob and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 12, and 14, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Hyung-Seob in view of Rowan.

Furthermore, as recited in dependent claim 8, the length of the loop according to the present invention is less than the width of the button strip. Rowan clearly shows the loop being significantly longer than the width of the button strip making the loop of Rowan difficult to hide.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hyung-Seob in view of Rowan and in further view of Zagorski et al.

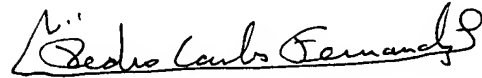
Claim 11 depends from claim 1, which rejection over Hyung-Seob in view of Rowan has been addressed above and, because there are no features in Zagorski et al. that somehow could be combined with Hyung-Seob and Rowan and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is patentably distinct over Hyung-Seob in view of Rowan and in further view of Zagorski et al.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

2790/69225

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pedro C. Fernandez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pedro C. Fernandez
Reg. No. 41,741

DAT/PCF:tb